(*a*) when the road was sanctioned ;
(*b*) when it was completed and opened ; and
(*c*) whether the road is being maintained by Government.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN. (*a*) In 1101.
(*b*) In 1117.
(*c*) No.

Angamali—Manjali Road.

32. **MR. P. O. THOMAS :** Will the Government be pleased to state :
(*a*) why the Government have suspended the work of the Angamali-Manjali road *via* Choondanthuruth, Kurimcesseri and Kuthia Thodu (Alwaye P. W. D. Division) ; and
(*b*) whether the Government will take immediate steps to resume the construction of the same ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : (*a*) Due to the prohibitive cost on account of the change of conditions.
(*b*) As soon as conditions improve, steps will be taken to resume the work.

Boat jetties.

33. **MR. P. K. KUNJU** (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertala*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :
(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that all the boat jetties beyond Keerikad are located on the western shore of the Kayamkulam lake where comparatively few people live ;
(*b*) have representations been received by the Government from the people on the eastern shore of the lake about the inconveniences they are subjected to by the jetties being located on the western shore of the lake ; and
(*c*) if so, what action has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : (*a*) Yes.
(*b*) Yes.
(*c*) The matter is under consideration.

Ryots roads in the Kartikapalli taluk.

34. **MR. P. K. KUNJU :** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of ryots roads they had taken up for maintenance during the year 1119 in the pakuthies of Keerikad, Muthukulam, Chingolil and Pathiyoor in the Kartikapalli taluk ?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : None.

PRESIDENT :

Fellow Members of the Assembly,

In pursuance of the procedure that has been now adopted of informing the House of any matters of importance that have taken place, of any changes or enunciations of policy that have become

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

necessary and of similar matters of significance, I propose to make a statement on certain questions which would, I have no doubt, be of value to this honourable House. But before I go any further, it is my duty and my privilege to take this occasion to refer to the victory that has been achieved in Europe by the Allied Armies, to the peace that is being ushered in the continent of Europe and to the speediness with which the closing operations of the war were conducted and the triumphant conclusion of those operations. It is the hope and prayer of people all over the world, a prayer in which the people of India share, that the same expedition and the same success will attend the efforts of the Allies battling in the Far East and that an era of world-wide secular peace may be established and the concomitants of the peace may follow.

There have been two formal resolutions tabled and I shall not, therefore, anticipate what will be said by honourable members of the House when speaking on the resolutions which will very shortly be moved. Those resolutions seek to congratulate the Allies on their success and especially make mention of the great and noble part played by India and by Indian soldiers, in the attainment of those results. In the continent of Europe and in Africa, Indian troops of every grade and belonging to every branch of the services played their part worthily, and tributes, encouraging and generous tributes, have been paid by all those qualified to speak with reference to their achievements. The latest and not the least notable among the tributes were those paid by General Auchinluck who has just returned to India after visiting the various theatres of War in Europe in which the Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen played a notable part worthy of the traditions and worthy, let us say, of the inevitable future of India. I have elsewhere referred to the part played by Travancore in these war efforts. I do not propose to repeat myself and some of the facts are already wellknown and are public property. But it may not be out of place on an occasion of this kind to reiterate the salient facts. This Government have contributed in cash about 28 or 29 lakhs of rupees, and that is only a very small portion of the value of supplies of various kinds, timber, charcoal, various kinds of coir products and other things which were supplied and as to the aggregate of which mention has been made elsewhere. I cannot, however, let this occasion slip without referring again, and with pride, to the fact that 80,000 men have been recruited from Travancore to the various services exclusive of the recruitment through the Technical Recruiting Officers and as King's Commissioned Officers. In the percentage of the total enrolment, Travancore stands foremost among the Indian States. The Central War Recruitment Committee have recommended 420 persons to the Central Recruitment Board. Travancore has also supplied 78 labour units each consisting of 850 men for work in Assam and Burma; and those who are competent to speak on this matter

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

have testified generously and fittingly, to the outstanding fact that, but for the work of these labour forces, Burma would not have been conquered in the time and in the manner in which that conquest has been made practicable.

Turning now to the technical labour, we stand second only to Mysore in the whole of India and we have supplied already 1,600 technicians to the various war services. I do not propose to dilate more on this aspect of the question. All that I wish to say, in conclusion, on this aspect is that Travancore can justly be proud of the great and prominent part that it has played in pursuit of the aims underlying the war and that Travancore has played its part under the stimulating inspiration and aegis of His Highness the Maharaja.

The budget will be presented to this honourable House and to its sister House a few weeks later. But there is no harm in my informing this House by way of forecast, that we expect a revenue of well over six crores of rupees. This achievement has placed Travancore far ahead of any State in India excepting Hyderabad and Mysore. Mysore has just now announced its budget figures in the budget meeting, to be about 9½ crores of rupees, of which one crore or more is attributable to the Kolar Gold Fields. We have achieved this peak figure of six crores without any additional taxation.

Before I go further I wish to refer to the impending retirements of three of our important officers, Mr. Salter, Mr. Bruford and Mr. Ure. Mr. Salter was associated with the Transport organisation from its inception. He has done work during very difficult times with very inadequate material and has kept up, to the extent possible, the efficiency and utility of the organisation. So far as profit is concerned, spectacular profits have been made by the Transport Department. But I do not attach too much importance to it, because as a monopoly organisation it is charged with the duty of catering to the transport of a country which is not very well-served by the railways and where on account of the cattle situation, the bullock cart is fast becoming obsolete. I do not blame the Mysore Government, nor is it my object to cast any aspersions on the Madras Government and I shall certainly be pulled up if I cast any aspersions anywhere else—but at the same time, there is no doubt that very soon the bullock cart, or rather the bullock belonging to the cart will be like the dodo—practically extinct. Therefore, the strain on our transport resources—our buses and lorries—is very great and Mr. Salter has taken up that strain and discharged his responsibilities most excellently and with the utmost loyalty to His Highness and to the Government. It is a matter on which I should certainly dwell and which it would be unseemly not to refer to.

Mr. Bruford was connected—very honourably and creditably connected—with the Pallivasal hydro-electric scheme from its inception stages on the construction side. Fine work has been done there, as

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

honourable members who have visited the locality can judge for themselves. He has done good work, and His Highness the Maharaja, in recognition of his fine work, has sanctioned a bonus of Rs. 5,000 to him.

Mr. Ure has been the Public Service Commissioner and I do not wish to say more about his services because something will be said in the course of the debate which has been put down on the agenda on the report which he has submitted and which contains a resume of the activities of the Public Service Department. He has told us that he wishes to retire and therefore this is the right occasion for me as representing the Government to place on record our great esteem and our sincere appreciation of the work that he has been doing. What the honourable members may have to say on the work of the Department will be known presently.

Speaking of these officers there is one aspect on which I shall have to dwell for a moment. Honourable members are aware that quite recently this Government fixed the age of retirement at 58 instead of 55 and the age of entry into Government service at 28 instead of 25. Certain questions have been put by the non-official members which could have been worded differently and I hope that such considerations could not have been imported into those questions. Questions have been asked suggesting that there was some sinister purpose or that there was some particular object in getting rid of certain persons or giving particular extra service to some other persons by reason of which this reform was introduced. All that can be said is that this matter was taken into consideration by Government about three years ago when this House and its sister House both pointed out the mounting pension charges and wanted steps to be taken by this Government for the purpose of counteracting or at all events minimising them. It was pointed out on the floor of this House and elsewhere that conditions which appertained to the public health of Travancore, 30, 40, or 50 years ago when this rule was first introduced have been profoundly modified. There was a time when people were treated as having grown old when they were 45 or 50 and in the days of the East India Company, we are told that they regarded the services of persons at the age of 40 and living in Calcutta as a miracle. It was considered that their digestible conditions were not of the normal and that persons after 40 could not have their proper diet and other things. Of course there are exceptions to that. But now in India public health conditions have improved and the result is that people of 55 are no longer regarded as so effete and so disabled for work as before, in part witness of which we might perhaps see a gathering of happy and contented retired officers, very vigorous physically and mentally who are an ornament to the various parts of Travancore. For, their existence is proof and their inactivity a kind of criticism upon the system. Having bestowed their very best consideration to this subject, Government came to the conclusion that the extension of the age

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

limit would serve the purpose of lessening pension charges. It was not the intention of Government to retire them in these conditions. Firstly it may lessen the pension charges and secondly taking account of the prevalent present health of our officers and their mental and physical vigour, it was considered also proper that the lower age should be enhanced, because it was found that as a matter of practical politics, we had to give exemptions. We had to raise the ages in the case of certain communities which found it difficult on account of economic and other reasons to complete their studies and become ripe for enrolment in the public services by the time that they were 25. Therefore it was that this proposition was being considered during many years; in fact 3 years ago it was practically decided upon, though the rule has been passed only now. Now, in two of the questions which have reached me there was even a suggestion that there might be some communal aspect in this matter. Some of those questions will probably appear on the agenda paper either tomorrow or the day after. The suggestion is that there was an idea that some communities may be penalised and some communities may be rewarded by the system operating so suddenly. I have taken the list of those who have retired or yet to retire from service from 1-1-1120 under the operation of the old rule and those drawing Rs. 275 and upwards. I shall read the names.

Mr. E. G. Salter, Director of Transport.
" S. J. Bruford, Resident Engineer, Munnar.
" S. N. Ure, Public Service Commissioner.
" C. Madhavan Pillai, Judge High Court.
" U. Padmanabha Kukillaya, Advocate General.
" C. V. Chandrasekharan, Pro-Vice Chancellor.
" A. Gopala Menon, Director of Public Instruction.
" I. C. Chacko, Chief Engineer.
" S. Ramakrishna Aiyar, Devaswom Commissioner.
" E. I. Chacko, Director of Industries.
" K. P. Padmanabha Pillai, Principal, Law College.
" K. Narayana Pillai, Executive Engineer.
" T. K. Nilakanta Pillai, Executive Engineer.
" K. Kunjan Pillai, Division Peishkar.
" K. Subramonia Pillai, Director of Agriculture.
" P. E. Mathew, Superintendent, Government Press.
" S. Janardhana Aiyar, Dy. Accountant General.
" G. Madhavan Pillai, Assistant Accountant General.
" V. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar, Professor.
" G. Govindan Nair, Second Judge.
" J. I. Gomez, II Grade Surgeon.
" V. Sivaramasubramonia Aiyar, Assistant Devaswom Commissioner.

Now this list shows that the object underlying that question or rather the curiosity underlying that question was not really justified. I leave it at that. The rule was passed not with a view to benefit any com-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President]

munity. It was intended to minimise the pension charges to the extent possible and the decision was made on taking into account the present-day conditions with regard to the health and the mental vigour of the occupants of the various offices.

The honourable members have put various questions as to the revision of salaries and the applicability of such revision to certain specified services such as the Anchal, and I may assure the honourable members that the question of the revision of the salaries of the Anchal Department is under active consideration and orders are expected to be passed very shortly. I may also inform honourable members of this House that the revision of salaries of the University teaching staff has also been completed and orders will be passed in the course of a week or thereabouts.

I will now proceed to the food situation in the State. It is gratifying to note that since the last session of the Assembly, the food situation in the State has eased considerably due to increased imports from outside. Under the 'Kharif plan' from November 1944 to October 1945, the Government of India have allotted 161,200 tons of rice for Travancore as its share. The balance left undespatched on 1-11-1944 out of the quota for the previous year was 53,431 tons. The total quantity thus made available for the current year is 214,631 tons. Of the above, up to 31-5-1945, 128,984 tons have already been moved into the State. Every endeavour is being made to move the balance quantity also, *viz.*, 85,647 tons as quickly as possible. I am also glad to inform the honourable members that the bulk of our supplies, our anticipated or expected supplies, now moves from the Punjab Districts and from the Eastern States, rather from Calcutta as it is the centre and also from Sind. There are no out of the way places and so we are hoping to get much of the supplies coming to us by railway and by steamer or by *vallams* as soon as possible. Until now I was not in a position for obvious reasons to say too much about the actual stock being held in our hands because there was a possible embarrassment and inconvenience that might arise from the disclosure of those facts. But now I am in a position to tell the honourable members that there is at present a stock of 124,680 tons of imported rice and local paddy equivalent to 30,795 tons of rice making up a total of 1,55,475 tons of rice. Thus therefore we have roughly six or seven months' stock. Until now we were always living from hand to mouth. Sometimes we had only two or three months' stock. If that matter were to be published there would have been regular panic in the State. We contented ourselves on those occasions by putting matters to the various representatives of the Crown Representative, namely the Resident here, and Resident after Resident have been most sympathetic and most helpful in the matter, and owing to their indefatigable efforts we have been able when we were hard put to it to get the necessary supplies rushed in, sometimes

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

at short notice even. At the present moment I am glad to say that we have a stock of six or seven months' supplies definitely in our hands, which is in addition to other supplies that have been promised to us. With special advertence to these circumstances, this Government have increased the daily ration of rice for an adult from 12 ounces to 14 ounces. It is expected that with the present stock our rice position will be satisfactory for a period of six to seven months as I have already told you.

Since the rice position has become favourable the intention of the Government is to gradually relieve the people from the obligation to buy the ration wheat and wheat products which are not generally liked. At one time there were particular reasons why this Government were very anxious that wheat should be purchased along with rice as part of the rations. First because this Government thought, and I optimistically thought, that it was possible to introduce wheat as a diet amongst the people of Travancore so that a more nutritious grain might be consumed. But those expectations were not realised. There was always difficulty in the disposal of the wheat. People purchased wheat and apparently disposed of it anyhow and for any price whatsoever in order to get some little more rice and the black marketing started in earnest. People have not been accustomed to eat wheat and therefore we have offered to surrender about 7,000 tons of wheat to other areas where it is urgently required. For the reason not that we did not think wheat is good for us but because in actual practice it is not possible for us to make people take to that wheat diet. About 3,600 tons of maida flour, and 100 tons of sooji have already been disposed of. After leaving a small quantity to meet the requirements in the State, steps are being taken to dispose of the balance stock of wheat products also. Government have with the approval of the Government of India already arranged for the diversion of the unwanted grains from this State to other deficit areas. The entire stock of Indian maize amounting to 3,000 tons has already been sold outside the State. These maize and millet we did not at all want but the Government of India at one time allotted those commodities to us and said that unless we took some millets rice will not be allowed for us. They could not give us any guarantee in the matter of supplies. Confronted with that predicament this Government had no other go but to take in maize and millets. Fortunately, now the situation has altered and the Government of India are co-operating with us in getting rid of other grains. There are other areas in which maize, barley and other articles are sold. Those areas will now get these grains. The Madras Government have agreed to purchase our stock of cholam and bajra amounting to about 11,000 and 2,300 tons respectively. They have already moved about 7,000 tons of jowar and 1,500 tons of bajra leaving a balance of about 4,000 tons of jowar and 800 tons of bajra, which are in course of despatch. Government have a stock of about 3,000 tons of gram and gram products and about 800 tons of peas. These are at present being issued to ration card holders. It is expected that the present stock of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President]

wheat, gram and peas will be disposed of within a period of about 2 months. This Government had to make arrangements practically at a moment's notice for stocking the grains that came along. They did not come in a uniform series of shipments. Suddenly, we will be informed that we will be getting 10,000 tons. We will have only two days' notice. We will be getting a telegram informing us that 10,000 tons of grains will be coming by such and such a steamer at Cochin and that we should take delivery of them. Therefore, we commandeered all the go-downs, private houses and shops in co-operation with the Cochin Government. We commandeered places in Cochin, or, rather the Cochin Government commandeered for us places in Cochin and we put the stocks in those godowns. Complaints have been received by Government that storage in these godowns has not been satisfactory, re-conditioning in those go-downs has not been satisfactory and stocking and inspection of the stocks have not been regular and satisfactory. In order that there may not be any room for any complaint we have now brought into existence a new special establishment for the verification of the stocks in all the depots; and that is now functioning. As has been mentioned more than once, when the Government of India were asking this Government the reason for the higher price of rice than elsewhere, we had to point out to them the high transport charges for which we were not responsible. There was no reason why we should eat rice which came from Baluchistan rather than those which came from Madras. We had to cut our coat to suit the amount of cloth that we had. Therefore, we had to come to a conclusion as to the maximum amount of loss that we could afford to sustain. I do not want to give exact figures. It is only when the final accounts are taken that the actual figures will be available. There is no doubt that there will be considerable loss sustained by this Government even at the price at which we have been selling. Supposing the complaints which we have heard are correct; supposing those in charge of the go-downs were not reconditioning the grains and supposing the various supervising officers have not been bestowing sufficient vigilance; I do not blame them. They have not been rice merchants by profession. They have been forced to deal in rice. Of course, if there is carelessness, apathy, negligence or corruption we will punish the delinquents. Still, we will have to face loss and damage. I anticipate them. But apart from those incidental or accidental loss we have still gone on reducing the price. We have recently reduced the price of rice and wheat by 8 annas per bag, *i. e.* from Rs. 28 per bag of 160 lbs. to Rs. 27-8-0 in the case of rice and from Rs. 30 per bag of 220 lbs. to Rs. 29-8-0 in the case of wheat. Without going any further, I may say that we will be lucky if we are let off with a loss of about Rs. 50 to 75 lakhs—probably it may be higher—in regard to our grain transactions.

Before I deal with the question of controlled articles, I wish to refer in passing to a subject which has close reference to the work of this honourable House. It is found now—I do not mean that it is as

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

a result of what has been decided upon—that it is practically a difficult matter to get any quorum in select committee meetings. Honourable members of this House and the sister House are now given a consolidated honorarium of Rs. 1,000 each per year. They are not paid separately for attendance in Select Committee or other meetings. The fact remains that time after time the Deputy President of the Legislative Assembly has to adjourn meetings for want of quorum. I have figures before me which would show that. Select Committee meeting of the Travancore Borstal School Bill—number of members present 4, number of members absent 7. Select Committee meeting of the Travancore Nurses, Midwives and Dhais bill—number of members present 4, number of members absent 7. Legislative business will practically become impossible if more interest is not taken in select Committee meetings. There are two ways for solution. I shall put it entirely to the Houses of the Legislature for their decision. Do they want to revert to the old system or do they want to lessen the amount of honorarium and have travelling allowance paid to them for the Committee meetings? These are questions which the Honourable House may decide for itself and I shall be content to abide by that decision. But one thing is certain, that public business cannot go on if it is found that quorum is not available for Legislative Committee meetings and other meetings. This House will have to deal with that problem very carefully.

I turn to another important matter which this Government will put before this honourable House and elsewhere and largely abide by their decision. The question is one of transport. There is no doubt that today on account of the circumstances over which this Government and the Transport Department have no control, it is practically difficult to get adequate replenishments of tyres, spare parts, cylinders and various other materials for adequately running a transport service. The inefficiency of the machines makes the work of the driver and others concerned much more difficult. Their responsibility is very great. On a given occasion they will have to test whether the brakes will respond adequately or not. Brakes are being examined at the commencement of every journey. If they are over-worked and out of order it will be difficult to make them all right even by what may be called tampering from time to time and making small alterations. Added to that is the question of overcrowding and that is the problem which this Government would like to place before the two Houses of the Legislature. Speaking entirely provisionally and without seeking to bind in any way the verdict and the decision of this House and the sister House, the opinion of the Government is that the overcrowding that now takes place is such that it must necessarily lead to accidents and practically to no control over the vehicles. The reason is obvious. If a vehicle is overcrowded and its machinery is not up-to-date, the strain on the machinery is greater. Moreover, people sitting on both sides of the driver one looking forward, another looking over his head, one leaning on his right side and another on his left side, make it difficult to control the vehicle. Keeping all these things in view, for the period intervening between now and the adequate replenishment of vehicles

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President]

and spare parts, Government wish, if this Honourable House and the public opinion would support them, definitely to implement a policy by which no one person will be allowed except those who can have seating comfort in the transport vehicles. That means that a very very large number of people will have to go on without travel. But, on the whole, it is better that the Government incur the big loss that may result from the eradication of the overcrowding. It is much better that Government disappoint a few people who might have urgent business to go from one place to another rather than allow vehicles inapt for the purpose for which they are functioning to go on to the detriment of the public safety and to the enhancement of public danger. At the commencement of the War, the Transport Department had been owning and operating a few Diesel Commer Perkins. These and a few '39 Model Chevrolets and Fords by the end of 1943 had outlived their lives. They were however maintained in running condition by substituting new units and parts in place of worn out ones. During the dark period of the War the supply of parts and units and vehicles have been restricted and the Transport Department has been forced to rely on these old vehicles. It may be noted in this connection that the passenger transport in the State has steadily increased mainly due to the increased business needs of the people in spite of strenuous attempts to discourage non-essential traffic by propaganda and restrictive fares. But as these steps have failed to bring about the desired effect, the Department has been forced to overload the vehicles, much to the discomfort of the passengers and detriment to the vehicles and tyres. A few controlled vehicles were released by the War Transport Department but the supply has all along been quite inadequate and the situation grew from bad to worse. I shall pause there for a moment. The War Transport Department of the Government of India has been bombarded with requests and the answer that we got on many occasions was "Why are you so greedy? look at Madras, look at Mysore. How few vehicles have they?". The peculiar conditions in South India are not always apparent to the people in Delhi. In the case of the War Transport Department my friend Sir Edward Benthall has paid more than one visit to Travancore and knows the conditions here. But it may well be remembered that our total Railway length is only 100 miles. We have a road system of 5 to 6 thousand miles of which 10 to 15 hundred miles are passable by motor cars, and a fairly good length of it is covered by the Transport vehicles. There are no bullock carts. There are no *jutkas*. The horse-drawn vehicle is literally difficult to encounter. Under the circumstances, we have solely to rely upon motor vehicles and motor buses. The Government of India, I dare say, have at the back of their minds the idea to help us, but it takes some little time for the idea to travel from the back of their minds to the front of their minds. The net result of what has been happening is that we are having accidents at an alarming rate. During my personal discussion with Sir Edward Benthall, he was good enough to promise to release 105 controlled vehicles during the course of the next four months. But, unfortunately, the War Transport

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Department has been able to release only 63 vehicles of the 105 promised till this date, of which 15 had to be kept exclusively for the P. H. E. Transport, the balance of 48 alone being available for passenger traffic. In the meantime, the old vehicles had to be withdrawn from service one by one due to deterioration so that the limited number of new vehicles received did not substantially help to improve the situation. This Department was still confronted with the task of catering to the public by overloading the vehicles to the maximum. The restriction in the supply of tyres also prevents the Department from increasing the services to any great extent even if buses are available. Thus, the position is that with a limited number of vehicles and tyres the Department is required to handle the passenger traffic which is growing every day. In 1119 there was an increase of approximately 10 lakhs in the number of passengers carried, while there was a reduction of 5 lakhs in the mileage operated. In the last session of the Assembly the honourable members were of the opinion that overloading may be allowed. I am placing the matter again before them so that this House might express its opinion in due course. I may say that, in regard to this question, if this honourable House and the other House agree, this Government will have no objection in laying down as an inflexible rule, from the minute public opinion has expressed itself, that only sitting accommodation would be provided and that no person in addition to these who could be given adequate seating arrangements will be allowed to enter the vehicle. Not only that; at every starting station, 6 or 7 seats will be kept vacant to allow people with great necessity to come in, in any intervening station. This Government will be implemeting the policy laid down by this House although it will practically halve the revenue to Government. This Government would like to take public opinion with them if possible.

I am now dealing with certain controls. During the time the Food situation in the State became very serious, we had necessarily to cultivate more and more tapioca. The extent of tapioca cultivation that has been newly brought into operation is a matter which is known to every honourable member of this House. That period of tense necessity when tapioca had to be resorted to as a *pis aller* is over now. We produce a tremendous amount of tapioca now. We have encouraged various people to plant tapioca and we must give them some margin. Unfortunately, the market came to an end in Northern India. The Mills in Northern India were forced on account of the policy of the Travancore Government to resort to a substitute. More than once, leading industrialists in Bombay and Allahabad approached the Travancore Government and asked the Government to relax the difficulties by way of ban placed on the export of tapioca because, otherwise, the mills could not get sizing materials and could not produce textiles necessary for the war and other purposes. The alternatives before this Government were grave; but they had to take the responsibility. Are we to handicap the textile manufacturers and incidentally the Government of India, or, are we to gamble with the only food stuff which

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President]

could keep us from starvation? Faced with these alternatives, this Government came to an unhesitating answer and gave that answer, *viz.*, that no tapioca will be allowed to be exported although the need may be one connected with the war. Faced with this problem, the mill-owners and the Government of India could not sit still. They therefore gave encouragement to the growth of maize. Hyderabad and various other units are growing maize, and most of the starch that is now used in the mills in the North is largely starch from maize. There are other substitutes which I do not want to mention for various reasons, but I am glad to assure the Honourable House that the most careful experiment with tapioca starch will leave one with the conclusion that tapioca is the one best suited for the textile mills. Keeping that in view and having reference to our altered food situation, the object of this Government is now to resort to the export of tapioca starch. Here again, we have been confronted with great difficulty. Just before we lifted the ban, tapioca was going out at the rate of 20 to 30 lakhs of Rupees worth per month. That was the rate of tapioca export. What were the results? The producers of tapioca, and unfortunately the middle men, wanted to make the largest profit in the smallest time and therefore the tapioca starch was mixed with sand, fibre and all sorts of deleterious materials so that before three or four months were over we got indignant letters from the mill-owners that Travancore's name is stinking because of the adulterated tapioca starch that has been sent out from here, and that if we have to capture the market and hold it, that contingency has to be avoided at all costs. Therefore, this Government have made up their mind to take over the whole of the export control into their hands. An ounce of tapioca will not go out of their hands unless it has been tested by some Government Inspector and bears the Government seal. This market is bound to bring thirty or forty lakhs into Travancore and this is the only way in which that market could be kept up. And I may add that this measure is being encouraged mainly as a cottage industry. There are one or two big firms which have been allowed in Travancore to carry on this trade; more than that will not be encouraged. The idea is that at present the production of tapioca starch up to a certain point is to be a cottage industry. We do not deflect at all from the position of Cottage Industry to a central factory. Perhaps, the two or three factories that have been started to manufacture starch may have to combine their operations. But, whether in respect of their product or in respect of Cottage Industry, there will be no export except through the operation of the Governmental agency and until Government certifies.

I am glad to inform this Honourable House that in regard to the Post War Development of Fisheries, the Government of India have finally passed orders, which reached us not many days ago, by which any saltwater fishing and any backwater fishing research work, control and other ventures will be commenced in partnership

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of fifty-fifty with the Government of India. This was announced to us by the expert who recently visited Travancore. In regard to fresh water fishing, we are going to have 75% in our hands and the rest with the Government of India. We have a scheme for improved refrigeration, distribution and conveyance of fish and that system will be started by us in unison with the Government of India. A scheme will be brought into existence before a year is out.

About eggs, I have to say a word. The Military in Ceylon, as elsewhere, are in a desperate position so far as egg supply is concerned. The Government of Ceylon have had opinions slightly divergent from the opinions of the Travancore Government on vital matters and, therefore, we have not contracted with them. The Military authorities there, as in other places, rely to a very large extent upon Travancore. But, what was being done before the war and was in existence until sometime ago is that this supply gets into the hands of middle men and profiteers. These middle men had helped to a considerable extent in building up this trade. This Government had entered into an undertaking with the Government of India by which two results are achieved. First of all, we hoped to have a certain proportion of the eggs reserved for home consumption. I am afraid, from the reports I hear, that very little home consumption, is taking place and that 115,000 eggs a day, a number which has now been increased to 165,000 are being supplied through various agencies and under the auspices of Government at one or two centres of the Military authorities. Apart from that, there has been no control. In order to achieve that supply there has been a certain amount of control, and distribution has been amongst as large a number as possible. We have got letters from high Military authorities and various Governments saying that a particular person has been a good supplier and that he might be given a good supply. We generally turned down those requisitions and distributed the supply among as large a number as possible, having regard to their past trade and having regard to the part played by them in building the trade at a time when the trade was not so flourishing as now. That finishes the position of Food Supplies.

With regard to consumer goods, we are having very great difficulty. Our Hoarding and Profiteering Officer has had to proceed to Bombay and other places for dealing with, for instance, articles like paper, nibs, fountain pens and so on, and put forward arguments which have not been very warmly accepted. A country which has a large percentage of literacy and a large number of school boys, school girls and school masters ought to be treated on a different footing from those places in the world where literacy is only three or five per cent. of the population. We have not been reckoned even on a population basis. For instance, we have been given four fountain pens for a year to be distributed over six million people. That was our difficulty. However, we have been attempting to deal with this position and further representations have been made.

One of the arguments that has been advanced against us is that this Government have not utilised the hoarding and profiteering prevention provisions sufficiently strictly whereas in other parts of India

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

the provisions were liberally resorted to and rigorous imprisonment in several cases were awarded. Fines have been levied in many cases. That is true. It is said that we have not been sufficiently diligent. I plead guilty to this charge. I must say that there has not been adequate co-operation with the Government on the part of the public. Every person who is over-charged is under a positive duty, the moment when he is over-charged, to mention the matter to the authorities concerned and see that the offender is brought to book and arrested. No question of any respect for persons will be heeded to. No person, however highly placed, or however influential, can escape from that, and this Government have passed a rule that no application for stopping or withdrawing any prosecution will be received by this Government. In other words, whatever inherent rights His Highness has will be exercised through his duly accredited agents, in regard to the institution of criminal proceedings, in regard to the sale and purchase of consumer goods and to the enforcement of the provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Ordinance. This Government have already notified that no prosecution, once attempted, will be withdrawn. It may be that some persons are accused out of malicious motive by subordinate officers. It may also be that some persons may even be convicted on inadequate or insufficient findings. Cases are not unknown of people who make crores and are allowed to make more crores and are sent on special deputations while people who are dealing with small amounts are sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. In the execution of laws of this kind, such inequalities are bound to occur. Such cases are no doubt bound to be encountered, but you cannot possibly get rid of the scarcity of the consumer goods unless the people cooperate with the Government and bring to book every case of overcharge, working kind of goods supplied or of mis-representations. At the present moment I believe that a large number of people have been convicted already and prosecutions are pending. In every case of prosecution lawyers appear before me and say that in the *special* circumstances of that case and having regard to the fact that somebody was present at a marriage somewhere or that a son was put in charge of the shop and he was only 16 years of age, the prosecution may be withdrawn. I allow the lawyer's fees and dismiss the matter in such cases. But I may say that not a single case of hoarding and profiteering will be withdrawn by Government.

The reason why Government have been hard-hearted in the matter is this. Unless complaints of a serious character are brought to the notice of the authorities, we shall not get consumer goods. You will not get the articles such as note books, fountain pens, pencils, etc., because the Government of India will say that this Government are not sufficiently strict in the matter of prosecuting the offenders, and therefore this Government need not be given more quota. Therefore we should make it a point that offenders are punished promptly so that the Government of India may send us more consumer goods.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

It is a matter of great regret that the malaria position in the State was very critical some time ago. The Malaria Control Measures in South Travancore are in the immediate charge of the Malaria Special Officer appointed lately by Government. The District Health Officers inspect the work similarly carried on in Central and North Travancore. I have no doubt that Malaria has caused great havoc. I have received accounts of what Malaria has done especially in the Peermade locality and at the foot of the hills. I have also been told that malaria occurs in cycles of seventeen years, and this unfortunately happens to be the seventeenth year in the cycle. That may be correct or incorrrct, but I may assure the honourable members that this is a matter which is engaging the anxious consideration of Government. The Public Health Department has been told to strengthen the personnel if necessary for the distribution of the medical equipments for the purpose of dealing with malaria control. The honourable members will remember that on a previous occasion, when malaria epidemic was very severe, it was possible through the devoted efforts of the Public Health Department to have brought the situation under control. I must not here omit to convey to the Department a meed of praise in regard to the matter. It is generally said that the incidence of malaria lessens when the monsoon breaks out. Now that the monsoon has broken out, let us hope that things will be better.

I next deal with the question of coir. Communiques have been published on this matter. I shall not go into the previous history of the subject because honourable members are aware of what happened until now. So far as this year is concerned, a request was made to this Government that we should supply not only the War Department and the Supply Department but other countries also, notably the rehabilitated or about to be rehabilitated countries of Europe. This Government made two things clear. Firstly, that so far as War Supplies were concerned, the Government regarded that demand as paramount and would resort to any system of control, of price control or quantity control for the purpose of ensuring the supply to the War Department. Secondly, it ought to be perfectly remembered that all export restrictions had to be removed in order to sell at the market rates or at the best available rates to the other countries *viz.*, the United States and to the countries in Europe, and to the United Kingdom in so far as the supplies to the United Kingdom were for the purposes of the War. There was recently a conference on the subject and I am glad to say that the Government of India have more or less seen eye to eye with this Government. We have again assumed a tremendous burden upon ourselves, because we are now face to face with a much bigger problem than the supply of coir to the war needs alone. We are face to face with the supply of coir, as that is an important item in Post-War Reconstruction for a number of years to come. We are in the hope that coir will displace many other materials; that research in coir will take place and that coir will be used in certain instances where other materials are now used. Having come to that conclusion this Government proceeds to the next step *viz.*, the point of view of the producer. The Government are very glad indeed and are very anxious that all the inhabitants of the State should make

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

as much profit in as quick a time as possible. That proposition goes without saying. At the same time the Government are not particularly anxious that the big enterprisers, the big middle men or even the big manufacturers should get all the profits. Therefore, the Government have arrived at the following results as part of the Post-War Reconstruction policy. They will take a census and they will collect figures for the purpose of showing the actual cost at every stage—the amount that the producer gets for his cocoanut, the rate at which he can sell the husk, the people who buy the husk, what happens at the stage of retting and so on. And, therefore, from stage to stage, a rationalisation of profits will be attempted so that the producer might not be defeated by the middlemen and that the man who rets the coir may not be defeated by a man higher up in the hierarchy. The Government will fix the prices and then regulate those prices and also as in the case of tapioca as well as in eggs, see to the grading, so that no coir will go out of the State again without a minimum requirement of quality, and according to various grades and categories which are certified by Government. It is a big responsibility for any Government to take, but on the other hand the chances of making a monopoly position in the world after the war are so great that Government have to take that responsibility, great and burdensome as it is. Certain communiques have been published and after the arrangements with the Government of India are finalised, the whole matter will be placed before the House in due course.

In this connection it may be mentioned in passing that I have noticed with great concern and surprise that the Jute producers are trying to invade Travancore. There was a time when Bengal made not only lakhs, but crores and tens of crores by the monopoly position which Bengal held in jute and although this Government in the early stages of the war brought to the notice of the Government of India that coir could be used as an additional expedient for jute if not by way of substitution for jute, Calcutta, being nearer to Delhi, jute was preferred during the first three years of the war to coir from Travancore. It was only during the time of the third year of the war that coir was resorted to in any large quantity. There are men who I know have made not crores but tens and hundreds of crores in this business, but I would not mention names. Now that the demands for the war are so great, the jute interests want to capture and oust the coir trade in Travancore. There are people who import jute into Travancore and there are manufacturers who are manufacturing jute mattings in Travancore in competition with and to the detriment of coir. However, when I met the representatives of the industry here I told them that every power that this Government could exercise legitimately to discourage this unsocial and unpatriotic conduct would be summoned and I repeat it solemnly and sincerely. I trust that in the way of exploitation of coir there would be no handicaps placed by manufacturers however influential and well placed they might be, and that they will not ruin a well-placed and well-organized industry in Travancore and bring in an element which is bound to be hazardous to the future interests of Travancore.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I see that a number of adjournment motions have been made in regard to the yarn position. That is a rather sorry story. We have not been able to persuade the Government of India to give us as much yarn as we want. Why? It is not always realised that there are nearly 300,000 people dependent on the handloom industry in Travancore. A large number of these people live in the rural areas. What has been the result? We have been advised of a quota of 795 bales but we have actually received 631 bales. Now, these bales have to be distributed. How are they to be distributed? The first impulse was to distribute it through well-recognised agencies such as Co-operative Societies. After a few years, when the Co-operative Societies receded into obscurity, they again took a different line and in speech after speech, persons representing this Government as well as other Governments have stated in season and out of season that the salvation of the world lies in the co-operative movement, that Post-war Reconstruction is based on the co-operative movement and that the co-operative movement is the only agency which can be used for the purpose of getting into contact with the husbandmen and the cultivator so as to bring home to them the effects of joint action and joint sharing of profits in an equitable fashion. Having expended so much rhetoric upon this topic, normally it was the duty of Government to make experiments with that organisation. Wherever the co-operative organisations were given any task in relation to the distribution of yarn, complaints came to the Government that the co operative societies are full of faction, that the co-operative societies were merely the hand-maid of a particularly influential person in the locality and that he was corrupt and profiteering and so forth. A member suggested that Taluk Committees may in certain cases be constituted. I received three or four deputations in the last few days and I was told that one Taluk Committee was constituted but never met. Another Taluk Committee was constituted but the Convener did not give any notice of a meeting. A third Committee had been constituted but the yarn was in the hands of the Taluk Committee and had not moved from those hands. It is very difficult to go into this matter. This matter really involved the reputation of the State. Is there going to be any machinery for the purpose of making this distribution? If so how is it to be done? To do it mainly by official agencies will be undoutedly to invite criticism that the official was guilty, or that he distributd it among the members of his community or his own friends or somebody connected with him or some men who were influential in the locality and whose influence he could not afford to oppose. Therefore some other machinery will have to be chosen. Two days ago I received a deputation on behalf of the great communal organisation, the S. N. D. P. Yogam, which pointed out that a large number of weavers belong to that community, the Ezhava Community, and that the work of distribution of yarn may be entrusted to the S. N. D. P. and to the various branches of that Yogam in each locality. My answer was, that once such an organisation was started internal fissures and disintegration would be the result. But I gave a promise that if large numbers of the community were dealing in yarn they may be co-opted on the Taluk

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

Committees. I am making this matter clear not because I am satisfied that the distribution of yarn has been wholly equitable or that there has been injustice in this matter, but I want you to realize the difficulties that I have placed before you. I have an adjournment motion before me and I am going to allow it. All these possible alternatives will be placed before the House and I trust that you will bear these facts in mind.

The textile position is somewhat similar. There too, one would have thought that we would be getting as much as we wanted. In Bombay, Bengal and in the Punjab the basis of allotment is 12 to 15 yards of cloth per head per annum. The deficit for our State has been fixed at 1,704 bales of cloth per month, *i. e.*, 17 lakhs of yards. However, in regard to the textile position we may be said to be getting larger quantities and the position is on the upgrade so far as it goes.

I am glad to announce to this Honourable House that the Weights and Measures Amendment Act has now been brought into force. It was brought to the notice of the Government that especially during harvest time, land owners played havoc with the weights and measures. They used one kind of *para* for collecting pattom, another for selling and another very small *para* for distributing to their labourers and so forth. This kind of complaint was not very vociferous at first but it increased and increased and they came from such different sources and were very well authenticated, that Government felt that there was a very serious mistake to be rectified. Therefore, they have gone out of their way to invite His Highness to use His Highness' prerogative and the Law has now been enforced. By this Act not only the use of unauthorised weights and measures but their possession by anybody within the State is made penal. Government realise the full extent of their responsibility. They realise that any subordinate of the police might enter the house of the foremost citizen of Travancore and say that he is using unauthorised *para*. But it is hoped that these subordinates will not out-run their jurisdiction. But the mischief is so great that the step had to be taken, and it has been taken. A certain time has to be given for the surrender of all unauthorised weights and measures and steps have been taken for that. But after that period whoever has in his possession an unauthorised weight or measure is bound to be prosecuted and no prosecution will be withdrawn.

Government have also under consideration a Scheme as part of an All India Scheme which has been put forward by the Government of India, to decimalise our coins. At present the minds of Government are moving towards making a change in the coins of the State, namely by making 20 cash equal to one chuckram and 20 chuckrams equal to a rupee. The concurrence of the Government of India will be necessary for this but I have no doubt that, having regard to the importance of this world-wide reform and the uniform welcome which it has received from many countries—I believe even England will adopt this—the public will co-operate with us whole-heartedly.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I may now proceed to a question which must have engaged the attention of the honourable members, the Secretariat re-organisation. It was found by Government that the present system by which one officer was the exclusive channel of communication from various Secretaries and Heads of Departments to Government was alright in times when business was small. But when big proposals of post-war reconstruction involving large finances and various other matters which require leisure and research, were on the horizon, it was found that to compel one person to deal both with small things like transferring some subordinate revenue officer from one place to another and also with the future of mineral sands development and the scheme of the fertilisers and chemicals in the State would be a step which led to delays and to another feature which I must point out. After all the fact that the Head of the Administration passes some orders or that Heads of Departments put up proposals, however significant and important it may be does not take us very far unless those orders are communicated to the person in the field, in the market place and in the village; unless the villager knows whether his petition is assented to or dissented from or whether there is a favourable or unfavourable order; and suspense for two, three, four, five or six months, is not healthy. It is from that point of view and in order that the responsibility may be placed in five instead of one person in matters relating to normal administration that the Chief Secretary's place has been abolished. The Re-construction Officer will put up proposals to Government and those proposals will be considered by the Secretariat and by the Heads of the Departments concerned. Verified by the conjointed reports of these agencies, Government will act. Government are making an experiment. This system of Chief Secretary is in existence in a few other places. But I had the advantage of working a system without a Chief Secretary in the Government of India. I have had the advantage of working a system with a Chief Secretary in Madras, but there, the Chief Secretary has independent and different powers as other Secretaries. The present system is being tried as an experiment, and it is hoped that it will be successful.

At the same time the Government have made two things clear. After all the work of Government is not done so much by the Head of the Administration or by the Secretary or by the Head of the Department as by the humble clerk. Therefore it is necessary to look to his lot. It has therefore been ruled that no clerk should be overworked. There should be no over-time work given to any clerk unless he is paid for that over-time work. It will be insisted upon as a matter of principle, as a matter of inflexible rule that no clerk will be allowed to take any paper home. It will also be insisted on that he should not sit in office after 6 o' clock. If more clerks are necessary more clerks will be appointed. But the system of over-time work is not satisfactory because it saps the energy of the clerks. These rules will also come into operation now.

I now turn to the question of the industrial development of the State. I am glad to inform honourable members of this House that in regard to the Fertilisers and Chemicals Co., the Government of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

Madras have entered into a provisional agreement with us for taking Rs. 20 lakhs worth of shares of the Company and they are taking a definite proportion of its produce, so that our markets are ensured, and production is, to a large extent, unlimited. All members will be glad to learn that the Governments of Baroda, Nawanagar, Nepal, Bhopal, Ramgarh, Mysore, Cochin and Madras have co-operated with us. I am further glad to inform the honourable members that all the shares for which applications were made in Travancore and Cochin were allowed in full. The other Governments get only about 30 per cent. I may also state that although all these various Governments are concerned in the company, the direction and the formulation of the final policy is vested in this Government.

I am also glad to inform the honourable members that in regard to aluminium, it was put to the Aluminium Company which was essentially a Canadian concern that in order that they should secure the fullest co-operation from this State, they should let a certain portion of the shares to be participated in by the inhabitants of this State. They issued a new capital of Rs. 60 lakhs and Rs. 23 lakhs worth of shares have been taken by the State including the public.

I come lastly to the mineral sands. Tracts where these mineral sands are obtained, are leased out to certain companies and these leases are expiring or are about to expire. One of these leases has expired in 1943 and another is expiring in September 1945. Other persons have also leases subject to certain stipulations with which I shall presently deal. But this Government have made up their minds that, wherever it is possible to utilise the sands for the manufacture of applied products within the State, to that extent, no export of sand will be allowed. Certain preliminary and temporary arrangements are in operation just now. The bye-products of these sands are greatly needed for certain war purposes. Therefore Government had to allow the exports to continue for purposes of the war. This Government has agreed that to the extent the sands are required for war purposes and certificate to that effect is forthcoming, they will allow export. But no further export will be allowed until and unless negotiations are completed for the purpose of starting a manufactory within the State. These matters are in the stage of negotiations; if they are satisfactorily completed they will be reported to the House. If they are not, we shall keep the sands here.

The next question with which I shall deal is that of labour. A certain amount of legislation has been passed in regard to labour; the Travancore Trade Boards Bill is pending before the Assembly. Government have appointed a full time Labour Commissioner. They have followed the scheme of the Government of India and have deputed a gentleman to study labour conditions in the United Kingdom. Government are giving the fullest possible encouragement to labour, and speaking for myself, I think labour leaders will be able to recognise that wherever the dispute is between labour and capital, generally I

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

have been disposed to take the side of labour. But at the same time, there is one thing I have to say and I shall say very definitely. The position taken up by labour in industrially advanced countries like the United States and England when they function in politics is different from the position that labour takes here. If they join with other political parties, and if they make communist demonstrations as they did recently in Alleppey, more as a show of strength rather than for the purpose of celebrating the victory, then this Government will have little sympathy with labour. In so far as they stand on their own legs they will be encouraged but if they mix up, as they are apt to do, as they are sometimes asked to do, labour with politics, as some of them did, crying out slogans of '*Release Jawaharlal*, otherwise, we shall have a strike somewhere— Hammer and sickle' I do not think they can expect much sympathy. I have great respect for Russia and they have achieved a lot by communism. But what they have achieved through communism, we shall perhaps achieve through different methods. But this confusion of labour tactics and labour propaganda with political propaganda is good neither for politics nor for labour. Honourable members, I know, may hold different views on the subject—they are at liberty to advocate those views as forcibly as they can. But basing on my views, I take my stand that labour in Travancore which is already fairly well organised, will be well-advised to stand on their own legs and not side with organisations which may or may not have the same ultimate aims as all of us have.

I have done. The public service recruitment policy will come up for the review of the Legislature. What I have to say on the matter, I shall say then. I have invited Mr. Ure to speak on the matter and on what we should do in future in regard to it. Government shall largely be guided by the conjoint wishes of the two Houses. I have done.

The House rose for lunch at 2-6 P. M.

The Assembly met again at 3 P. M.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have received the following notices of motions for adjournment of the House.

(1) from Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai:

"I move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing an urgent matter of public importance, viz., the situation created in the country by yarn and textile control and the consequent system of distribution of yarn and textile adopted by Government."

The matter is urgent and of public importance and, prima facie, has to be discussed. I shall give tomorrow for discussion.

(2) from Mr. V. Gangadharan Nair:

"I beg leave to move the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the distress of the starving weavers in the State due to the failure in obtaining sufficient quantity of yarn to keep them in employment."

This motion can be discussed along with the first.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(3) from Mr. P. Madhavan :

"I move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the situation that has arisen in the State due to shortage of yarn and the consequent difficulties to handloom weavers."

This also can be taken along with the previous motions.

(4) from Mr. A. K. Bhaskar :

"I beg leave to move that the business of the Assembly be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the pitiable plight of the numerous labourers of the State employed in handloom weaving industry owing to the very inadequate supply of yarn."

It will be remembered that the question of availability is not in our hands but the distribution is undoubtedly a matter which we can take up.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR : I do not press my motion.

PRESIDENT : The next motion is :

"I beg leave to move that the business of the Assembly be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the severe hardship the student population of the State is put to owing to the extreme shortage in the market of copies of text books prescribed for use in classes both in English and in Malayalam schools."

In regard to this, I may state that some representations have been made and they are being looked into. Does the honourable member want to move the motion ?

MR. A. K. BHASKAR : In view of the assurance given by the Chair, I do not want to pursue the matter.

PRESIDENT : The next motion is by Mr. R. Madhavan Nair :

"With a view to discuss the serious situation that has arisen for State as a whole and for coastal population in particular as a result of the recent sea erosions on the coastal side of the Quilon and Karunagapally taluks, I move that the proceedings of the House be adjourned."

I may at once say that Government have noticed these erosions and the consequent distress. In so far as these erosions might have been caused by the exploitation of the mineral sands, we have passed orders stopping further exploitation, and the orders will stand till the question is discussed and some decision arrived at.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Karunagapally* cum *Kartigapally*) : In view of that assurance I withdraw my motion.

PRESIDENT : The next motion is :

"I hereby give notice that I intend to ask for leave to move for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the situation created by the failure of monsoons and consequent damage caused in a widespread and acute scale to both dry and wet agricultural crops, especially paddy in the State and the resultant hardships of the agriculturists."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

As a matter of fact, we do realise that the monsoon conditions have been very unequal and also that a certain amount of loss has been caused. Government hope to take the necessary steps to alleviate the suffering.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In view of that assurance, I withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: The next motion is :

> "I move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely the widespread prevalence of malaria in the hilly regions of Pathanamthitta taluk, particularly the pakuthies of Ranni and Kumbazha and the consequent suffering of the inhabitants thereof."

That is again a matter on which I have said something. We are not at all satisfied with the present conditions. The Department of Public Health have been asked to do their utmost in the matter. We are alive to the prevalence of acute malaria in more than one district of the locality.

MR. V. I. IDICULLA (*Pathanamthitta*): I withdraw my motion.

PRESIDENT: Tomorrow evening at the usual time the adjournment motion regarding yarn will be taken up. I trust honourable members will confer with each other and put forward specific proposals with regard to the matter, which Government shall adopt as far as possible. The position has been explained by me as to the distribution of yarn, etc. If you can suggest the agency through which the distribution should be made, what changes are required in the present arrangements, I should be glad, because the responsibility is so great that I would be greatly relieved if I can share that responsibility with honourable members of this House.

I find that a number of short-notice questions, so called, are being given in regard to matters which have been pending for a long time. Honourable members perhaps thought of them only just now, and therefore have given them as short notice questions. I shall keep the questions, and they shall be answered during the budget session.

SECRETARY: Sir, I beg to report that the following messages have been received from the Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council :—

> "1. Under Rule 42 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I am directed to inform you that the Sri Chitra State Council, at its meeting held on the 23rd February 1945, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly on the 19th February 1945 and the 20th February 1945."
>
> (i) The Travancore Town Planning Act (Amendment) Bill.
> (ii) The Travancore Registration Act (Amendment) Bill.
> (iii) The Travancore Bar Council Act (Amendment) Bill.
> (iv) The Travancore Prevention of Begging Bill.
> (v) Amendments to the First Schedule of the Civil Procedure Code, 1100.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Secretary.]

"2. I am directed to inform you that at the meeting of the Sri Chitra State Council held on the 24th February 1945, the Council has concurred in the motion of the Sri Mulam Assembly passed on the 21st February 1945 that the Travancore Disposition of Property Bill should be committed to a Joint Committee of the Sri Chitra State Council and the Sri Mulam Assembly."

BILLS ASSENTED TO BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA.

SECRETARY: Sir, I beg to report that the following Bills have received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja:—

(i) The Travancore Town Planning Act (Amendment) Bill.
(ii) The Travancore Registration Act (Amendment) Bill.
(iii) The Travancore Bar Council Act (Amendment) Bill.
(iv) The Travancore Prevention of Begging Bill.
(v) Amendments to the First Schedule of the Civil Procedure Code, 1100.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir Under Rule 76 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I beg to lay on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by the Government under Section 32 of Act II of 1108.

Demand.	Amount in Rupees.	Particulars.
III. 36. Buildings, Communications, etc.	14,280	For widening and improving the approach road to Padmanabhapuram Palace.
VII. 20. Administration of Justice.	2,080	For constructing a side room and dais for the Village Panchayat Court, Tiruvalla.
X. 7. Taxes on Income.	13,500	For the reorganisation of the Income Tax Department.
XXXI. 35. Miscellaneous Department excluding Radio Broadcasting expenditure by the Electrical Department.	9,466-2-0	For the purchase of Zoo animals.

Trivandrum,
11th June 1945.

S. NARAYANA AIYAR,
Financial Secretary to Government.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly